

Claims 1 - 58 (cancelled previously)

Claims 59-75 (cancelled herewith)

76.(new) A medical image servicing system comprising:

a network generally available to the public;

at least one subscriber connected to said network for transmitting and receiving medical images and information through said network; and

a single server connected to said network for servicing said at least one subscriber upon signalling by said at least one subscriber and through said network, said single server comprising:

a data base;

means for checking and verifying legitimacy of a subscriber seeking to access desired medical images and information by signalling through said network;

means for registering in said data base medical images and information transmitted through said network by said at least one subscriber; and

means for processing and delivering said medical images and information through said network to said subscriber seeking access after checking and verifying legitimacy of said subscriber to said desired medical images and information, said medical images being associated with at least one image selected from the group consisting of MRI, X-ray CT, ultrasound, PET, digitized X-ray and CR; and

wherein said single server further comprising:

means for compressing in data size said medical images when transmitted through said network and for decompressing in data size said medical images to original data size when received through said network by said one subscriber seeking access; and

means for producing backup of said medical images registered in said data base.

77.(new) The system of claim 76, wherein said at least one subscriber comprises a hard copy device; and wherein said at least one subscriber transmits format information including image identifier information to said hard copy device and through said network to said single server; and wherein said hardcopy device receives from said single server through said network delivery of said medical images corresponding to said image identifier information and then provides a hard copy of said medical images.

78.(new) The system of claim 76, wherein said at least one subscriber comprises a software executing subscriber running medical software for transmission through said network to said single server; and wherein said single server manages medical software and registers said medical software transmitted through said network by said at least one subscriber in said data base and causes delivery of said medical software through said network to said software executing subscriber.

79. (new) The system of claim 76, wherein two or more subscribers are provided, each connected to said network.

80. (new) The system of claim 76, wherein said at least one subscriber comprises means for specifying type of image processing to be communicated through said network to said single server.

81. (new) The system of claim 76, wherein said single server comprises means for informing said at least one subscriber through said network of type of image processing to be applied.

82. (new) The system of claim 76, wherein said single server comprises means for establishing communication through said network with said at least one subscriber when image processing is completed; and means for transmitting through said network said medical images subjected to said image processing to said at least one subscriber.

83.(new) The system of claim 76, wherein said at least one subscriber comprises means for transmitting through said network to said single server, a request for medical images subjected to image processing; and means for receiving said medical images from said single server through said network.

84. (new) The system of claim 76, wherein said single server comprises means for storing each medical image in at least one form before image processing; and means for storing each medical image in at least one form after said image processing.

85. (new) The system of claim 83, wherein said request is for only part or all of said medical images and wherein said part or all of said medical images are sent through said network to said at least one subscriber.

86.(new) The system of claim 76, wherein said single server comprises means for polling said at least one subscriber through said network to collect medical images before image processing.

87.(new) The system of claim 76, wherein said single server comprises means for sending through said network to a delivery destination imaging conditions for said medical images.

88.(new) A medical image service method utilizing a network generally available to the public, a plurality of subscribers connected to the network, and a single server connected to the network for commonly servicing said plurality of subscribers upon signaling therefrom, said method comprising the steps of:

one of said plurality of subscribers requesting register, delivery and/or processing of medical images through signals sent through said network to said single server;

checking and verifying legitimacy of the request from said one subscriber transmitted through said network to said single server and when such request is determined to be legitimate causing a signal to be sent through said network to said one subscriber to request the medical images to be registered, delivered and/or processed;

said one subscriber then sending through said network said medical images to said single server; and

registering, delivering and/or processing said medical images in a data base disposed in said single server.

89. (new) The method of claim 88, wherein said one subscriber requests delivery of said medical images; and comprising the further steps of:

requesting identifier information by said single server through said network from said one subscriber;

sending identifier information by said one subscriber to said single server through said network;

reading medical images from said data base in said single server;

sending each medical image from said single server through said network to said one subscriber; and

displaying said medical images by said one subscriber.

90.(new) The method of claim 88, wherein said one subscriber requests through said network of said single server registration of said medical images; and comprising the further steps of:

requesting imaging conditions by said single server to said one subscriber or by said one subscriber to said single server through said network;

sending said imaging conditions by said one subscriber to said single server through said network or by said single server to said subscriber through said network; and

said single server registering said medical images according to imaging conditions in said data base.

91.(new) The method of claim 88, wherein said one subscriber requests of said single server by signalling through said network processing of medical images, and comprising the further steps of:

said single server processing said medical images;

said single server then sending results of processing through said network to said one subscriber; and

causing said one subscriber to display results of said processing of said medical images.

92. (new) The method of claim 91, wherein said single server further sends through said network to said one subscriber request for identification information, and said one subscriber sends such identification information to said single server through said network; wherein said single server reads medical images from said data base and processes said medical images prior to sending results thereof to said one subscriber through said network.

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